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What's Happening in Victoria

What's Happening in Victoria



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New look Statistics Victoria Newsletter

Statistics Victoria newsletter has evolved this year, and is now provided in e-mag format with hotlinks to reviewed publications. We have ceased producing a pdf issue. This offers the reader an easy way to access content of interest from its source. As always, we try to focus on ABS data which has Victorian content, and offer a sharp review to give a window on selected ABS releases. Reader feedback is always welcome, and can be directed to Alan Page, Editor at <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum meeting of 14 March 2008

The Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum (VSAF) met on 14 March 2008, marking the first VSAF attended by Mr Carl Obst in his new role as Regional Director, ABS Victoria. Mr Martin, who in addition to his role as VSAF Chair is also the Victorian Government representative on the State Statistical Forum (SSF), provided a report on the 11 March 2008 SSF meeting in Canberra. SSF discussed a number of key strategic areas. ABS' operational response to fiscal savings announced by the Federal Government was a high priority, with discussion focusing on sample size reduction for some collections and implications for the 2011 Census.

Further discussion focused on state and territory statistical priorities, in particular four priority areas identified by ABS Regional Directors. It was decided to concentrate on three out of the four priorities: local area demography; improved statistics on the Indigenous Australian population, and children and youth statistics. The fourth priority area, local level economic development, was assessed as lower priority; however ABS will still pursue action in this area.

Other SSF agenda items included: water statistics; housing affordability statistics, and the potential role ABS could play in transportation statistics, in particular around congestion and public transport.

Mr Obst delivered an update on recent ABS activity. He opened by encouraging data sharing within the Victorian State Government (VSG), and proposed a review of engagement between ABS and VSG to achieve greater progress in coordinating data. Mr Obst also noted a number of developments around ABS' current budget constraints. In particular, ABS' Labour Force section will continue to produce the same outputs, and decreased sample sizes will have only a negligible effect on data usability. Mr Obst also referred to the revised ABS organisational structure following several changes at senior level, noting in particular Mr Vince Lazzaro's (former Regional Director, ABS Victoria) new appointment as head of the National Statistical Service (NSS) Leadership Branch (ABS).

Ms Jeanette Pope (Department of Planning and Community Development) attended VSAF as a guest, to report on developments since a review of various community wellbeing indicator projects. Ms Pope described a two-pronged approach, consisting of discussions at the local government level, and discussion between VSG departments. VSAF discussed the idea of developing a statistical coordination point for VSG. The meeting agreed that further dialogue was required to progress compilation of an options paper, which will be taken forward by a group consisting of representatives from a number of departments.

Mr Mano Georgopoulos (Director, Customer Services Branch, ABS Central Office), gave a presentation on ABS strategies for developing statistical literacy in Australia. The approach targets different community user groups in different ways; such as students, teachers, library programs, small business and journalists.

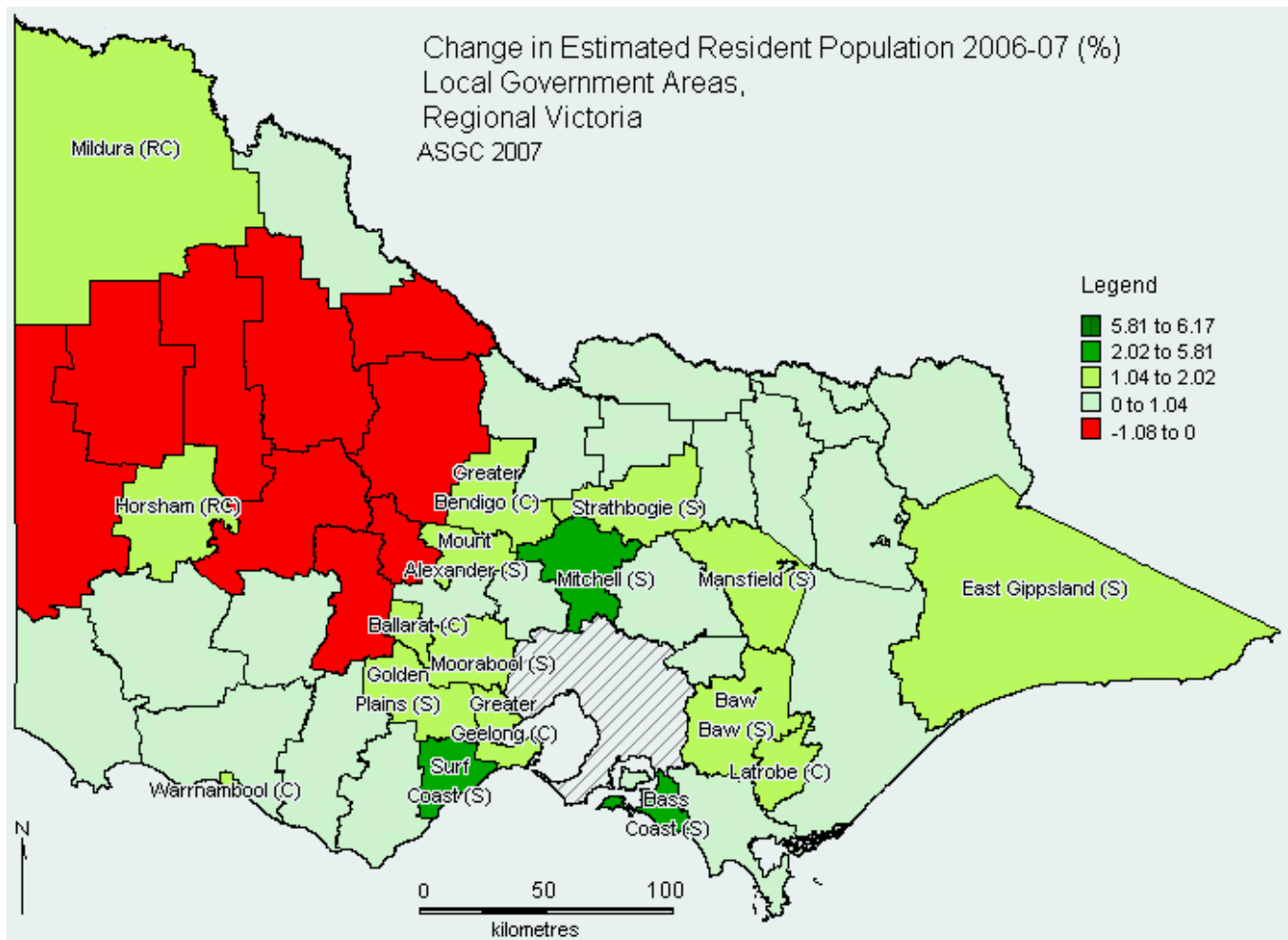
For further information on VSAF contact Antonella Caruso on (03) 9615 7860 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

Regional Population Growth

The Capital City of Melbourne had the largest growth of all capital cities in Australia. This was the biggest story for Victoria coming from the release of Regional Population Growth, Australia 2006-07 (cat. no. 3218.0) on 31 March. The estimated resident population of the Melbourne Statistical Division (SD) was 3.8 million at June 2007. This represents an increase of 61,700 people (1.6%), which is equivalent to an extra 1,200 persons each week. Sydney SD had the second largest growth, increasing by 52,000 people. Victoria as a whole grew by 1.5% which was the same as the annual growth for Australia.

The largest and fastest growth continued to occur in outer fringe local government areas (LGAs) of Wyndham, Casey, Melton, Cardinia and Whittlesea. These strong growth patterns are consistent with patterns observed over the past five years. The City of Melbourne also showed strong growth with the fourth largest population increase and the second fastest growth of all Victorian LGAs. The following table highlights the LGAs with the largest and fastest population growth in Victoria for the year ending 30 June 2007.

LGAs with largest and fastest population growth in Victoria, in year ending 30 June 2007			
ERP AT 30 JUNE		Population change	
LGA	2007p no.	2006-2007p no.	%
Largest growth			
Wyndham (C)	123 200	7 200	6.2
Casey (C)	229 100	6 800	3.1
Melton (S)	85 600	4 700	5.8
Melbourne (C)	81 100	4 500	5.8
Whittlesea (C)	133 200	3 600	2.8
Fastest growth			
Wyndham (C)	123 200	7 200	6.2
Melbourne (C)	81 100	4 500	5.8
Melton (S)	85 600	4 700	5.8
Cardinia (S)	60 800	2 200	3.7
Surf Coast (S)	23 500	720	3.2



NatStats Conference 2008

Planning for the inaugural ABS hosted NatStats 08 Conference is well underway. The conference will be held from 19-21 November 2008 at the Crown Promenade in Melbourne. It will connect users and producers of official statistics, and provide participants with an opportunity to discuss strategies for improving statistics for policy and decision making.

The focus of the conference will be on measuring progress in Australian society and future information needs. An array of high profile policy and decision makers from across the community will ensure a varied and exciting program.

The NatStats 08 Conference will be linked with the global initiative being led by the OECD on Measuring Progress in Societies and with the Australian initiatives being developed through the Australia 2020 Summit and the National Reform Agenda.

If you would like more information on the conference please email Mark Lound at <inquiries@nss.gov.au> or phone (02) 6252 6325. Alternatively, if you would like to register your interest in the conference, please contact Conference Solutions on <natstats@con-sol.com> or phone (02) 6285 3000.

Keep your eyes open for details of the conference in future editions of the Statistics Victoria newsletter.



Informing decisions - ABS Service Delivery Charter 2008-2011

ABS is committed to increasing access to Australia's wealth of statistical information. We do this by delivering timely, relevant and accurate statistical information; the use of which contributes to informed decision making, research and discussion within governments, businesses and Australian and international communities. Our website presents ABS data free of charge, and is supported by a telephone enquiry service. This Charter outlines our commitment to providing a quality customer service, specifying what you can expect when you approach us for statistical or other information.



Help for Local Government on the ABS website

Local Government users of the ABS website can now access information pages designed to help find data and other resources of interest to Local Government. Called **Services We Provide to Local Government**, these new information pages include:

- How to find data for Local Government Areas
- How to keep informed about ABS releases and developments; and
- Information about resources and services available to help you use data.

The pages include ABS releases that contain data at Local Government Area level, and information about ABS training available to Local Government clients. Find these new pages by clicking on this link [Services We Provide to Local Government](#), or go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>, click on 'Services We Provide' from the home page, then 'Services to Local Government'.

'Services We Provide to Local Government' is the latest in a series of help pages aimed at assisting ABS clients. Other 'Services We Provide' pages on the ABS website include: State/Territory Government, Small Business, and Universities.

2008 Australian Population Association Conference

The 14th biennial Australian Population Association (APA) conference will be held from Monday 30 June to Thursday 3 July 2008 at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. The Australian Statistician, Brian Pink will give the Borrie lecture on Monday. Plenary sessions and speakers include:

- Indigenous Demography: Dr Margaret Michalowski (Statistics Canada) and Dr John Taylor (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research),
- Policy responses to social change: Professor Ross Guest (Griffith University) and Professor Wolfgang Lutz (Vienna Institute of Demography),

- The Demography of Australia's Northern Neighbours: Professor Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore) and Dr John Bryant (Mahidol University, Thailand).

For more information including the program, see the conference website at www.nt.gov.au/ntt/apa2008.

Launch of the 2008 Year Book Australia

We are having more kids, living in bigger houses, but are environmentally more conservative, according to the 2008 Year Book Australia (cat. no. 1301.0) launched on 7 February 2008 by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd) at a function in Canberra.

At the launch the Australian Statistician, Brian Pink announced that all 90 volumes of the Year Book Australia, going back to the first edition published in 1908, are now available free of charge from the ABS website. "The Year Book Australia is a magnificent window into Australia showing where we have come from and where we are going", said Brian Pink. "Now with all historical Year Books freely available in digital format on the ABS website for posterity, the community can easily chart the course of the nation."

A feature article on Australia's 60,000 Scouts may be of interest to the 2 million Australians who have been Scouts. The Year Book also includes features on Tsunami Risk to Australia, Sustainable Forest Management, and Child Employment.

"The release of the 2008 Year Book is an opportune time to extend our thanks to the people and businesses of Australia for their continued support."



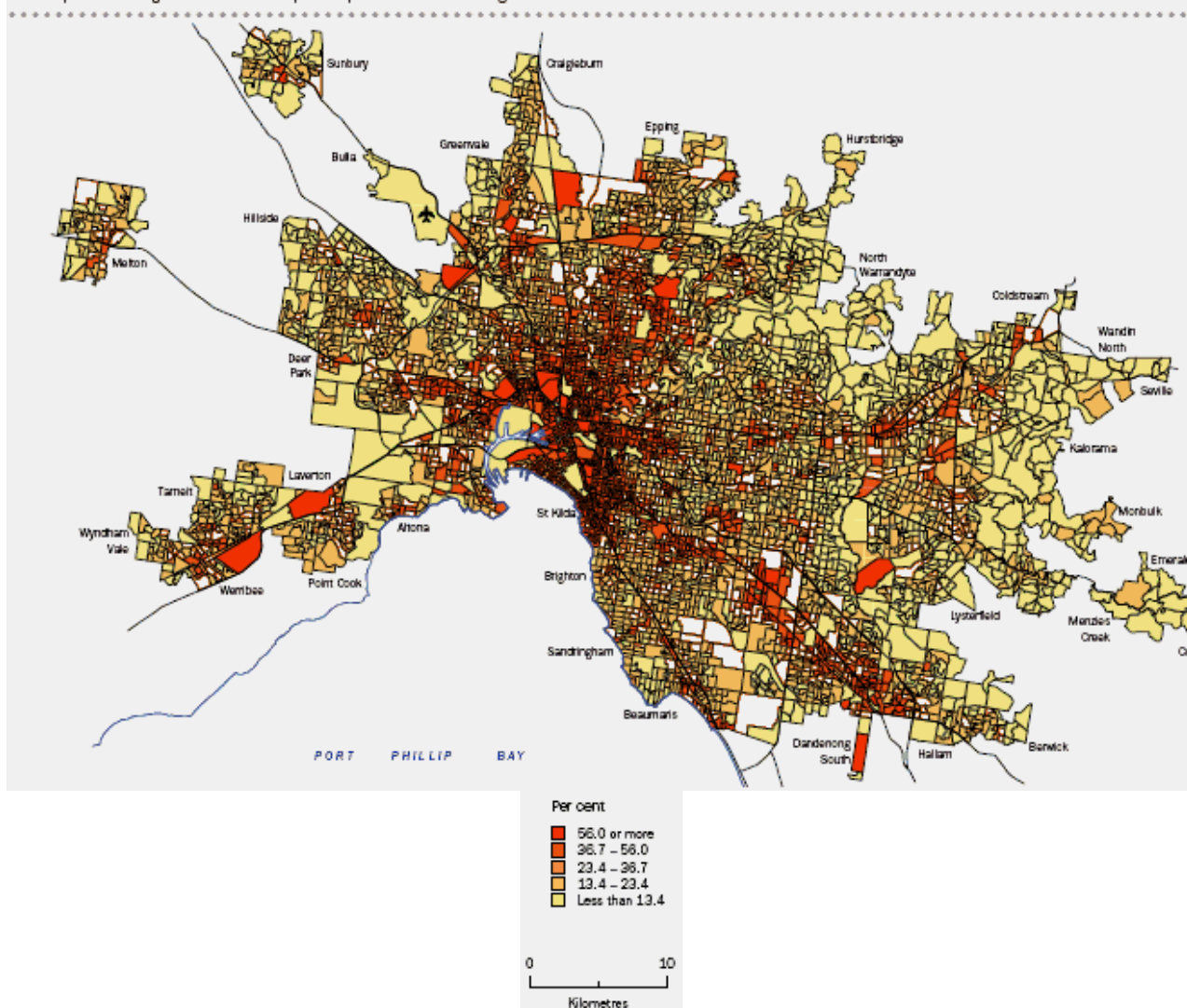
Launch of Melbourne's Social Atlas

Melbourne ... A Social Atlas, 2006 (cat. no. 2030.2) was released on 17 March 2008 and presents colour maps based on 2006 Census data that highlight key social, demographic and housing characteristics of Melbourne and Geelong. Maps highlight the diversity across these cities, and commentary explains the main features of each map. Maps cover population, cultural diversity, education, labour force, income, families, households and dwellings.

Rented dwellings. There were 320,165 rented dwellings in Melbourne at the 2006 Census, accounting for 26.6% of all occupied private dwellings. High concentrations of rented dwellings were located in the city centre and inner suburbs. Inner city suburbs where more than 60% of all dwellings were rented included Flemington, Parkville, North Melbourne, Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy, East Melbourne, Southbank, South Yarra and St Kilda. Refer to the publication for other interesting demographic data about Melbourne.

RENTED DWELLINGS

As a percentage of all occupied private dwellings



State and Regional Indicators, Victoria - Childcare Usage in Victoria

The feature article in the December quarter 2007 State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (cat.no. 1367.2) focused on several aspects of child care usage in Victoria, using data from the June 2005 Child Care Survey. It provided details of level of usage, cost of care, characteristics of families using child care, dissection of child care usage by age and type of work arrangements parents adopt to care for their children. Child care refers to arrangements (other than care by resident parents) made for the care of children aged 0–12 years. The Child Care Survey collected information about formal and informal child care. Formal child care refers to regulated care that takes place away from the child's home, for example long day care, before and/or after school care and family day care. Informal care refers to non-regulated care that takes place in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by family members, friends, neighbours, baby sitters and nannies. Parents often use a combination of formal and informal child care for their children.

In June 2005, 374,500 children aged 0–12 years received some type of child care in Victoria during the reference week. This represented 46% of children in this age group. Formal care, either alone or in combination with informal care, was used by 20% (165,000) of all children 0-12 years in the reference week. Informal care, either alone or in combination with formal care, was used by 33% (268,800) of children aged 0–12 years.

This article is presented in full in the December quarter 2007 edition of 'State and Regional

Indicators, Victoria' (cat. no. 1367.2), along with many other commentary covering Victorian data at local government area and sub-state level. Read the article from this link.

For further information contact Pam Boulton on (03) 9615 7880 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

Recent Releases



Recent Releases

Selected Recent Releases

Information Papers, Research Papers and Classifications

Other Selected Releases

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

1329.0 Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2007. Released 29/01/2008

There were 1,397,350 tonnes of grapes crushed in Australia during 2006-07, a reduction of 504,210 tonnes (26.5%) on 2005-06. Beverage wine production also showed a large drop, falling 31.8% to 978,478 litres. Growth in export of Australian produced wine continued, reaching 787.2 million litres during 2006-07 and remained relatively buoyant at \$2.9b. Domestic sales of Australian wine increased slightly, rising by 3.9% to 449.2 million litres. The combination of reduced wine production and increased sales caused the national inventory of beverage wine to fall 15% from last year's high (2.1 billion litres) to 1.8 billion litres. Victoria had 38,650 ha of planted vines in 2007, accounted for 16.5% of grapes crushed, and produced 14.9% (142.8 million litres) of the nation's total wine production in 2006-07.

2033.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia - Data only , 2006. Released 26/03/2008

The Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas, together with an information paper (cat. no. 2039.0) and detailed technical paper (cat. no. 2039.0.55.001) are released. SEIFA is a suite of summary measures created from 2006 Census information. The indexes can be used to explore different aspects of socio-economic condition by geographic area. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA score which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. The four indexes in SEIFA 2006 are:

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage: focuses primarily on disadvantage, derived from variables like low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage: a continuum of advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values), derived from variables of both advantage and disadvantage.

Index of Economic Resources: focuses on financial aspects of advantage and disadvantage, using variables relating to residents' incomes, housing expenditure and assets.

Index of Education and Occupation: includes variables relating to educational attainment, employment and vocational skills.



3303.0 Causes of Death, Australia, 2006. Released 14/03/2008

The proportion of deaths attributed to Ischaemic heart disease has declined from 23% in 1997 to 17% in 2006. Cardiovascular disease was responsible for the deaths of 45,670 Australians in 2006, and represented 34% of the 133,739 deaths registered in Australia during 2006 (down from 41% in 1997). Cancer was the underlying cause for 39,753 registered deaths in Australia, accounting for 30% of all registered deaths in 2006 compared with 27% in 1997. Lung cancer (7,348) was the most prevalent type of cancer death. Contains state level data.

3412.0 Migration, Australia 2006-07. Released 26/03/2008

Statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents in Australia. During 2006–07, net overseas migration added 177,600 people to Australia's population. Some 59% of this increase (105,300 people) was people aged 15 to 34 years, while only 3% (6,100 people) were 50 or older. There were 351,900 people who moved interstate during 2006-07; with 45% (158,500 people) of these aged 15 to 34, while 15% (53,400) were 50 or older. Two feature articles include:

'Traveller Characteristics of Recent Net Overseas Migration', discusses 2006–07 net overseas migration in terms of age, sex, country of birth and state and territory distribution.

'Permanent Departures—Where are they going?', details nine years ending 2006–07 and permanent departures from Australia of both people born in Australia and former settlers. Where those departing intended to settle, and whether or not overseas-born departures intended to return to their country of birth are also discussed.

4221.0 Schools Australia, 2007. Released 29/02/2008

The Australian schools snapshot found that the number of full-time students attending Australian government schools grew by 1.7% (to 2,268,377) in 10 years, while the number of students attending non-government schools increased by 21.9% (to 1,148,146).

In 2007, Victoria had 2,292 schools: 1,593 government, 485 Catholic, and 214 independent. There were 453,511 Victorian primary school students, 68.7% of whom attended government schools. Another 380,342 attended secondary school, with 59.0% in government schools. The retention rate of Victorian students who went on to attend Year 12 increased from 76.3% in 1997 to 80.1% in 2007, with females (87.4%) outdoing males (73.3%) in 2007.

4229.0 Adult Learning, Australia, 2006-07. Released 21/12/2007. First Issue

During 2006-07 in Victoria, 35.5% of persons aged 25-64 years participated in formal or non-formal learning. This dropped to 20.9% of persons 55-64 years. Full-time (43.1%) and part-time (36.5%) employed Victorians had higher participation than those not in the labour force (14.4%). People in the highest personal income quintile (49.2%) were more likely to participate in formal/non-formal learning than the lowest quintile (22.2%).

4613.0 Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, 2007. Released 10/12/2007

Provides a broad selection of environmental statistics, with a view to change over time. It covers major trends of relevance to the environment, including: population, human activities, atmosphere, water, and landscape. The special issue chosen for 2007 was water.

Water. The combined storage capacity of all large dams in Australia increased from 9,540 giganlitres (GL) in 1950 to 83,853 GL in 2005. Australia has the highest per capita water storage capacity in the world, at more than 4 million litres per person. About 80% of total water consumed in Australia is surface water and 20% groundwater. In 2007, 19% of all Australian households sourced water from a rainwater tank.

In 2004–05, agriculture accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%) of Australia's total water consumption, followed by households (11%). The manufacturing industry consumed 3% and mining 2%. Victoria had the highest number of permanent and temporary water trades (702 and 9,323 respectively). Victoria also had the largest volume of water temporarily traded in Australia (444.3 GL).

The Murray-Darling Basin dominates irrigation in Australia, accounting for more than 70% of irrigation water use in Australia. The Basin covers approximately one-seventh (14%) of Australia's total area, and receives only 6% of Australia's annual run-off. Total water storage of large dams in the Basin is more than 24,000 GL; and predominantly used for irrigated agriculture, but also covers hydro-electricity generation, households, manufacturing and mining.

4618.0 Water Use on Australian Farms, 2005-06. Released 13/03/2008

Final Agricultural census estimates on agricultural water use, pastures and crops irrigated, and sources of water used for agriculture at a national, state/territory and regional level; with the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) treated as a distinct geographical region for the first time.

In 2005-06, Victoria had the largest number of agricultural businesses irrigating (11,621 or 25.9% of national total), followed by NSW (11,587 or 25.8%) and Queensland (9,861 or 22.0%). In Victoria, 37,146 agricultural businesses used a total of 2,641 giganlitres (GL) of water (22.6% of national total), with 2,448 GL for irrigation use by 11,621 businesses.

Some 648,000 hectares, or 5.2% of agricultural land in Victoria, was irrigated; representing 25.5% of irrigated agricultural land nationally. Pasture for grazing remained the major user of irrigation water in Victoria, using 1,579 GL, or 64.5% of the state total. Other major irrigation uses in Victoria included: grapevines, pasture for hay and silage, and fruit and nut trees. The Goulburn Statistical Division (SD) had the largest number of agricultural businesses (6,752) of Victoria's 11 SDs, with 3,709 of these businesses irrigating 281,000 ha using 1,144 GL of water in 2005-06.

Data covers sources of water for agricultural use nationally, by state and for the Murray-Darling Basin by state. ABS released other sub-state 2005-06 Agricultural Census datacubes on 28 March 2008. This data includes a summary of irrigation activity at Statistical Local Area (SLA) and River Basin level, data on major pastures and crops irrigated at Statistical Division and Natural Resource Management region level, and for the MDB by state.

4719.0 Overweight and Obesity in Adults, Australia, 2004-05. Released 25/01/2008. First Issue

Presents Australia level information about overweight adults from the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS), and compares results from 1989–90, 1995 and 2001 surveys. Overweight or obese adults increased from 4.6 million people (38%) in 1989–90 to 7.4 million (53%) in 2004–05. Being overweight is a modifiable risk factor for chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoarthritis and some cancers.

In 2004–05, 62% of adult males were overweight or obese, compared with 45% of women. Workers aged 18–64 years classified as overweight or obese ranged from 36% in hospitality to 76% in the mining industry. This partly reflects differences in employee age and sex across industries. Occupation ranged from clerical, sales and services workers (46% overweight or obese) to production and transport workers (63%). Men working less than 25 hours (48%) fared

better than those working 49 hours or more (70%).

6238.0 Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, Jul 2006 to Jun 2007. Released 22/01/2008

Presents mainly Australia level information about retirement status and intentions of people aged 45 years and over. Provides information on retirement trends, factors which influence decisions to retire, and income arrangements that retirees and potential retirees have made to provide for their retirement. Covers characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, country of birth, and labour force status. For persons aged 45-49 years just 6% were retired, compared with 23% of 55-59 year olds, 75% of 65-69 year olds and 95% of those aged 70 years and over. Average age at retirement from the labour force for people aged 45 years and over in 2006-07 was 58 years for men and 48 years for women. Contains some state level data.

6265.0 Underemployed Workers, Australia, Sep 2007. Released 25/02/2008

In September 2007, Australia had 518,300 underemployed workers, of whom 472,200 (91.1%) usually worked part-time but would prefer more hours and are available to start work. Under-employed part-time workers worked less than they wanted (insufficient work) for a mean duration of 56.1 weeks and median 26.0 weeks, increasing with age. Victoria had 141,600 under-employed workers: 56,800 male and 84,800 female. Contains one state level table, and annual time series from 2001.

6273.0 Employment in Culture, Australia, 2006. Released 27/02/2008

Presents summary data on selected cultural occupations and industries from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Presents the number and selected characteristics (eg. age, income and hours worked) of persons employed in cultural occupations and industries for their main job. While around 346,000 people worked in the Australian cultural industry as their main job, 55% worked in a non-cultural occupation (e.g. a cleaner employed in a museum). More men (55%) than women (45%) were employed in cultural occupations as their main job in the week prior to 2006 Census.

In Victoria during 2006, 92,861 people worked in the culture industry: 6,056 in heritage (eg. Libraries, museums, zoos, etc), 78,517 in arts (eg. publishing, performing arts, etc) and 8,285 in other culture (eg. religion, funeral services, etc). Some 77,191 Victorians had a cultural occupation. Cultural occupations in Victoria included: design workers (17,670 persons; eg. advertising, fashion, multimedia), printing (9,934), heritage (8,844; eg. museum, gallery, library), architects and urban planners (8,629), writers and print media workers (6,049; eg. author, journalist, editor), other cultural occupations (6,232; eg. minister of religion, interpreter), and arts support workers (5,382; eg music or dance teacher). Some interesting smaller occupation groups in Victoria included: performing artists and music composers (3,768 persons), performing arts support workers (3,743), visual arts and crafts professionals (3,625), and broadcasting, film and recorded media equipment operators (2,175).

7121.0 Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2005-06. Released 04/03/2008

The 2005-06 Agricultural Census found an estimated 154,472 agricultural businesses in Australia at 30 June 2006. The beef cattle farming industry was the largest sector (around 28% of all agricultural businesses), followed by mixed farming (grain-sheep/beef cattle, around 10%), and sheep farming (8%). There were an estimated 16,504 non-agricultural businesses who undertook some form of agricultural activity. The median estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) of all agricultural businesses was approximately \$90,000. Around 21% (33,100) had an EVAO below \$22,500, and around 11% (17,300) an EVAO above \$499,999. The cotton, poultry for meat, pig, poultry for eggs, and apple/pear industries had around 80%, 62%, 37%, 36% and 20%, respectively, of businesses with an EVAO greater than \$499,999.

The Murray Darling Basin (MDB) accounted for 54% of Australia's apple production, 87% of pear production and 95% of orange production. It also accounted for around 47% of Australia's cropping land with 46% of the wheat area, 52% of barley area and 100% of rice area. Despite representing 18% of Australia's total grazing land, the MDB account for 32% of Australia's dairy cattle, 45% of Australia's sheep and lambs, 35% of layer hens and 62% of pigs.

In Victoria, dominant agricultural activities included: beef cattle farming (specialised, 9,122 establishments), dairy cattle farming (5,948), sheep farming (3,731), grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming (2,800), other grain growing (2,785) and grape growing (2,030). In the year ended 30 June 2006, Victoria had 18,172 agricultural businesses concerned with managing 2,646,000 meat cattle, and 6,099 businesses managing 1,758,000 milk cattle. There were 12,049 businesses managing 17,908,000 sheep and lambs, and 450 businesses managing 668,000 pigs. There were 23,327,000 chickens for meat production, and 4,704,000 chickens for egg production.

7125.0 Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, Australia, 2005-06. Released 07/03/2008

Spreadsheets containing all data collected in the agricultural census (excluding water) for State, Statistical Division (SD) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions. Major data items for Statistical Local Area (SLA) level are also included.

7111.0 Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 2006-07. Released 20/12/2007

First release Agricultural Survey data for year ending 30 June 2007, including area and production for principal agricultural commodities and livestock numbers at state level.

7501.0 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary, 2006-07. Released 12/02/2008

Contains first estimates of gross value for production of selected crops, livestock slaughtering and livestock products at state level.

8515.0 Digital Game Development Services, Australia, 2006-07. Released 08/04/2008

This collection, conducted in respect of the 2006-07 financial year, provides measures of the performance, structure and activity of digital game development businesses operating in Australia. It includes aspects such as the composition of income earned, details of expenses incurred and the characteristics of the workforce. A state/territory dimension is also presented.

At end June 2007, there were 45 businesses in Australia involved in the provision of digital game development services. These businesses employed over 1,400 people and generated a total income of \$136.9m which represented an average of \$3m per business. Income from the provision of game development services accounted for 85.4% (\$116.9m) of total income. Income from the provision of game development services received from non-resident businesses accounted for 79.1% (\$108.3m) of total income.

Businesses providing digital game development services were located predominantly in Queensland and Victoria. Victoria accounted for the largest proportion of businesses, 35.6% (16 businesses), 33.2% (\$45.5m) of total income and 33% (472 people) of total employment.

INFORMATION PAPERS, RESEARCH PAPERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

1209.0.55.002 Mesh Blocks Digital Boundaries, Australia, 2006. New Issue. Released 29/02/2008

ABS has developed Mesh Blocks as a new micro-level geographic unit for statistics. There are 314,369 spatial Mesh Blocks covering Australia, with most residential Mesh Blocks containing approximately 30 to 60 dwellings. Mesh Blocks were designed to be small enough to aggregate accurately to a wide range of spatial units and thus enable a ready comparison of statistics between geographical areas, and large enough to protect confidentiality. Experimental Mesh Block data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing are now available, covering usual residence population and total dwellings. Release of data for aggregations of Mesh Blocks is under consideration by the Census Program, see www.abs.gov.au/census for details on data availability.

1232.0 Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing: Link Between Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) Second Edition and Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), 2006. Released 26/03/2008

1297.0 Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC), 2008. Released 31/03/2008

A three classification compendium developed specifically for the compilation of standardised research and development statistics. It comprises classifications for type of activity, field of research and socio-economic objective.

1351.0.55.023 Research Paper: Measuring Human Capital Flows for Australia: A Lifetime Labour Income Approach, Feb 2008. Released 21/02/2008. First Issue

Presents an experimental accumulation account for Australian human capital, focusing on investment in post-school education and work experience. Using full Census data from 1981 to 2001, this study estimates changes in the number of persons in each sex/education/age cohort over Census years.

2039.0 Information Paper: An Introduction to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2006. Released 26/03/2008

Describes indexes for summarising the socio-economic profile of population by areas and illustrates possible uses. Indexes are derived from the 2006 Census to rank postcodes, Local Government Areas, and Statistical Local Areas; by summarising a wide range of socio-economic characteristics. Examples of variables used are income, education, occupation and housing conditions.

2039.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia - Technical Paper, 2006. Released 26/03/2008

This paper gives users a good technical understanding of SEIFA 2006, and discusses socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. It discusses variables used in construction of SEIFA, methodology used to construct the indexes, and gives examples of how SEIFA can be used in analysis.

3107.0.55.006 Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008. Released 12/03/2008

Population concepts discussed include: population present, usually resident population, legal population, economic population, working population, and service population. The difference between various concepts and associated measurement issues is highlighted.

3317.0.55.002 Information Paper: ABS Causes of Death Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2006. Released 14/03/2008. First Issue

4149.0 Discussion paper: Defining Sport and Exercise, a Conceptual Model, 2008. Released 22/02/2008. First Issue

A draft conceptual model defining key concepts commonly used in survey research on sport and exercise. The model provides definitions of sport, exercise and physical recreation; and examines the relationship between these concepts. The aim is to aid interpretation and future development of surveys in this field. The model is presented in draft form to allow feedback and comment.

4647.0.55.001 Research Paper: Developing An Alternative View of Electricity and Gas Supply Activity in Australia, 2003-04. Released 28/02/2008. New Issue

4902.0 Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications (Second Edition) Draft for Consultation, 2008. Released 11/02/2008

Presents three separate classifications for culture and leisure data; covering industry, occupation and products.

4915.0.55.002 Information Paper: Arts and Cultural Heritage - An Information Development Plan, 2007. Released 14/03/2008

Identifies the agreed priorities and action for information development in the area of Arts and Cultural Heritage. The paper identifies gaps in available data and provides recommendations for addressing these. Recommendations will be implemented collaboratively by ABS and other key producers of arts and cultural heritage data over the next 3 to 5 years.

6225.0 Information Paper: Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, 1996-97 to 2003-04. Released 27/03/2008

Presents experimental regional estimates on the number of persons whose main source of income comes from their own unincorporated business(es). Estimates of aggregated individual income ('take home pay') these persons receive from their own unincorporated business(es) and total income they receive from all sources are available. Statistics are compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database. The data are available for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs).

OTHER SELECTED RELEASES

2006.0 Census of Population and Housing: Working Population Profile, 2006. Released 29/02/2008

3412.0 Migration, Australia, 2006-07. Released 26/03/2008

3416.0 Perspectives on Migrants, 2007. Released 25/02/2008. First Issue

4153.0 How Australians Use Their Time, 2006. Released 21/02/2008

4156.0 Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2008 (Edition 1). Released 01/02/2008

4228.0 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006. Released 09/01/2008

4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia, December 2007. Released 20/03/2008

4513.0 Criminal Courts, Australia, 2006-07. Released 25/01/2008

4602.0 Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, Mar 2007. Released 06/12/2007

5678.0 Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2006-07. Released 14/02/2008

4713.2.55.001 Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians , Victoria, 2006. Released 27/03/2008

6227.0 Education and Work, Australia, May 2007. Released 18/12/2007

6239.0 Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia, Jul 2006 to Jun 2007. Released 19/12/2007

7121.0.55.002 Agricultural Survey, Apples and Pears, Australia, 2006-07, Released 18/12/2007

8146.0 Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2006-07. Released 20/12/2007

8167.0 Selected Characteristics of Australian Businesses, 2005-06. Released 01/02/2008. First Issue

Main Economic Indicators (MEIs). Also released during the past quarter were a number of monthly and quarterly MEIs which can be accessed from the ABS website home page <www.abs.gov.au>. Examples of MEIs include: housing finance, building approvals, labour force, consumer price index, sales of new motor vehicles, and retail trade.

ABS Statistical Training and Information Seminars

ABS Statistical Training and Information Seminars



What Statistical training courses are available at ABS Victoria?

- Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)
- Turning Data Into Information (TDII)
- Basic Survey Design (BSD)
- Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)
- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)

Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)

This course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2008 Course Dates: 5 May

Turning Data Into Information (TDII)

This course develops skills in interpreting, displaying and communicating data clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful written information.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 20 & 21 May and 15 & 16 October

Basic Survey Design (BSD)

This course aims to provide a broad overview of all facets of survey development. Topics include developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire design, data processing, reporting of results and management of the design process.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 9 & 10 July and 26 & 27 November

Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)

This course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework for a statistical collection. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course aims to provide a framework to evaluate the quality of available data sources and use this knowledge in the decision-making process.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2008 Course Dates: 14 August

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)

This computer based course develops practical skills in summarising and displaying survey data in graphical and tabular form. It provides the tools for finding simple relationships in survey data and testing for statistically significant differences in past and current survey results.

Venue: ABS Victorian Office 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2008 Course Dates: 2 & 3 September

For further information go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. Select 'Services We Provide' then ABS Training or contact Alan Page on (03) 9615 7899 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.



Points of Contact

Points of Contact



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NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Phone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: <client.services@abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY EXTENSION PROGRAM

Libraries play a unique role in providing information to their communities and are a valuable source of ABS statistics. The Library Extension Program (LEP) is a partnership between ABS and a nation-wide network of over 500 participating libraries.

You can visit one of the Victorian Libraries which are part of the Library Extension Program (LEP).

STATISTICS VICTORIA EDITOR

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VICTORIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY FORUM (VSAF)

VSAF is a major forum for statistical liaison between Victorian Government Agencies and ABS. The following group of departmental representatives meet 3 times each year.

Departmental Representatives

VSAF Chair

Department of Treasury and Finance

Vin Martin

Department of Treasury and Finance

Peter Fuhrmann

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Jane Brockington

Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development

Chris West

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About this Release

Statistics Victoria is a quarterly newsletter primarily targetted to Victorian state and local government users providing information about new developments, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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